

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 HEW-04 AID-05 IO-13 /101 W

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P 142219Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 989

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6444

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJ: MILGOV UNSETTLED -- STRIKES PROHIBITED

REF: LIMA 6354

SUMMARY. CITING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, THE GOP ISSUED JULY 13 ORDER PROHIBITING ALL STRIKES AND REITERATING A PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND LABOR MEETINGS. THE MILITARY COMMAND ALSO BANNED END OF JULY NATIONAL DAY PARADES, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING THE MILITARY'S OWN. THE GOP HAS APPARENTLY RE-ORGANIZED ARMY SCHOOLS UNDER COMMAND OF GENERAL LOPEZ MENDOZA. THE SITUATION THROUGHOUT PERU APPEARS CONTROLLED BUT UNSETTLED AND PROBLEMS WITHIN THE MILITARY ARE APPARENT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND ISSUED A JULY 13 NATION-WIDE COMMUNIQUE PROHIBITING ALL STRIKES AND WORK STOPPAGES DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND CALLING ON WORKERS NOW ON STRIKE TO IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND SUCH ACTION. ALL POLITICAL, SOCIAL, LABOR OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF MEETINGS ARE PROHIBITED WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF THE COMMAND OF THE RESPECTIVE REGIONAL SECURITY ZONE. THE JULY 13 COMMUNIQUE ALSO BANNED PARADES AND PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS NORMALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE JULY 28-29

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NATIONAL DAYS. THE ONLY REASON OFFERED FOR THE FOREGOING

COMMUNIQUE IS THE ONGOING STATE OF EMERGENCY THROUGHOUT PERU.

2. THE GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS REPORTED JULY 14 THAT MINISTER OF WAR FERNANDEZ MALDONADO SWORE IN GENERAL VICTOR LOPEZ MENDOZA JULY 13 AS THE NEW CHIEF OF ARMY ACADEMIC SCHOOLS. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THESE SCHOOLS INCLUDE THE SUPERIOR WAR SCHOOL, THE ARMY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, THE MILITARY INSTRUCTION CENTER (CIMP) AND THE PARATROOP AND COMMANDO SCHOOLS. THE PRESS DESCRIBED LOPEZ' POSITION BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO IT AS BEING AN UP-GRADED OR NEWLY-CREATED POSITION JOINING THE COMMANDS OF THE CIMP AND OTHER MILITARY SCHOOLS. THE PRESS ENTIRELY IGNORED THE FACT THAT THE GOP HAD EARLIER ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL RICHTER PRADA TO REPLACE THE FORECEABLY RETIRED GENERAL BOBBIO (LIMA 6354). ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, GENERAL LOPEZ HAS BEEN REPLACED AS COMMANDER OF THE FIRST MILITARY REGION (PIURA) BY BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSE GUABLOCHE RODRIGUEZ.

3. FOR REASONS YET UNCLEAR TO US, GENERAL RICHTER MAY HAVE BEEN UNACCEPTABLE TO THE CIMP, AND GENERAL LOPEZ WAS THEREFORE BROUGHT DOWN FROM THE FIRST REGION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE CIMP COMMAND WAS REORGANIZED UNDER THE NEW ARMY ACADEMIC SCHOOL FRAMEWORK. WE KNOW THAT THE GOP AND THE ARMY COMMAND WERE SURPRISED AT THE RESISTANCE AND INDEPENDENCE SHOWN AT THE CIMP JULY 9 AND THE ARMY PROBABLY DECIDED THAT THE CIMP SHOULD BE BROUGHT MORE DIRECTLY UNDER THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

4. GENERAL LOPEZ IS CONSIDERED TO BE MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN FERNANDEZ MALDONADO BUT HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE RETIREMENT OF GENERAL BOBBIO. AS COMMANDER OF THE FIRST REGION HE ISSUED A JULY 9 COMMUNIQUE PLEDGING OBEDIENCE TO THE ARMY COMMAND AS WELL AS LOYALTY TO MORALES BERMUDEZ. OF THE FIVE REGIONAL COMMANDERS, ONLY LOPEZ AND SECOND REGION COMMANDER GENERAL PORTELLA CERRUTTI REFERRED TO THEIR FULL SUPPORT FOR THE ARMY COMMAND IN THEIR JULY 9 STATEMENTS.

5. THE JOINT COMMAND PROHIBITION ON STRIKES IS THE ONLY RECENT ALLUSION BY THE GOP TO LABOR PROBLEMS AFFLICTING PERU. THESE STRIKES, CAUSED PRIMARILY BY THE FAR LEFT, CANNOT BE HALTED BY GOVERNMENT FIAT. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT PRESUMABLY PLANS TO BACK UP ITS DECLARATION WITH A STEPPED-UP EFFORT TO ARREST
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THOSE WORKERS AND UNION LEADERS INVOLVED IN STRIKE ACTIVITY. THE GOP ALSO HOPES THAT ITS WARNING WILL SERVE TO HEAD OFF A PLANNED JULY 16 STRIKE OF THE FAR-LEFT LABOR FEDERATION CCUSC. MEANWHILE THE APRA-ORIENTED CTP AND THE COMMUNIST CGTP LABOR CONFEDERATIONS ARE COUNSELLING THEIR UNIONS TO EXERCISE PRUDENCE.

6. THE CANCELLATION OF NATIONAL DAY PARADES PRESUMABLY

INCLUDES THE MILITARY'S OWN GRAND PARADE HELD ANNUALLY IN LIMA. THE GOVERNMENT IS CERTAINLY AWARE THAT POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY IS AT ITS NADIR.

7. THE SITUATION THROUGHOUT PERU SEEMS TO BE CONTROLLED BUT UNSETTLED, AS EVIDENCED BY JULY 12 RIOTS IN CAJAMARCA WHICH CAUSED A 7 P.M. TO 5 A.M. CURFEW TO BE SLAPPED ON THAT PROVINCIAL CITY. CONSIDERABLE DISCONTENT WITHIN THE MILITARY OVER THE BOBBIO INCIDENT REMAINS.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL REPRESSION, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIMA06444
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760273-0317
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760760/aaaacaop.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LIMA 6354
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILGOV UNSETTLED -- STRIKES PROHIBITED
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006